

Resolution

No 84-120

Introduced By


ABRAHAM AIONA

Councilmember

SUPPORTING THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE AND S.2116

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066, signed on February 19, 1942, authorized the military to exclude any and all persons, citizens, and aliens from designated areas in order to provide security against sabotage, espionage, and fifth column activity; and

WHEREAS, as a result, in excess of 110,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast were summarily removed from their homes by U. S. Army troops and relocated to isolated detention camps in the interior of the United States where most were forced to remain until December, 1944; and

WHEREAS, similarly affected by this exclusion and detention policy were more than 1,800 Hawaii residents of Japanese ancestry, some of whom were relocated to these detention camps on the mainland; and

WHEREAS, following enemy attacks on the Aleutian Islands in 1942, Alaskan Aleuts were evacuated from their island homes and relocated in southeastern Alaska where they remained until allowed to return to their islands in 1944 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was created by Congress to review the facts and circumstances involving Executive Order 9066 and the relocation and internment of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and Alaskan Aleuts; and

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

STATE OF HAWAII

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

Resolution No. 84-120

WHEREAS, in its report, "Personal Justice Denied", the Commission found that the forced internment of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry was carried out despite the fact that not a single documented act was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by a resident Japanese alien on the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, of those interned, 80 percent were native-born American citizens of Japanese ancestry and most of the remaining 20 percent were longtime alien residents who were prohibited from becoming naturalized citizens by the Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further found that the internment of Americans and resident aliens applied exclusively to those of Japanese ancestry and was done without a process of individual review and virtually without regard for displays of personal loyalty to the United States; and

WHEREAS, based on these findings, the Commission concluded that Executive Order 9066 and the decisions and actions which emanated from it were not driven by analysis of military conditions but were shaped by racial prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership; and

WHEREAS, an economic study done for the Commission, estimated that, in 1945 dollars, the interned ethnic Japanese incurred losses between \$108 million and \$164 million in income and between \$41 million and \$206 million in property for which no compensation was received after the war under the terms of the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act; and

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

STATE OF HAWAII

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

WHEREAS, in addition to the financial losses, the Commission found that there was a grave injustice in the loss of liberty and the personal stigma of suspected disloyalty for thousands of Japanese Americans who were loyal and devoted to their country; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also concluded that the Alaskan Aleuts, evacuated and relocated to southeastern Alaska, were forced to undergo unwarranted suffering, including deplorable living conditions, inadequate medical care, lack of educational opportunities, and irretrievable loss of priceless religious artifacts; and

WHEREAS, based on their findings, the Commission recommended the following to correct the injustices committed against American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry: 1) the establishment of a \$1.5 billion fund which would be used, first, to provide a one-time per capita payment of \$20,000 to each of the approximately 60,000 surviving persons of Japanese ancestry who were subjected to forced evacuation pursuant to Executive Order 9066; 2) the establishment of a fund for humanitarian and public education purposes related to the wartime events using the remaining monies of the \$1.5 billion fund; 3) the enactment of legislation which officially recognizes that a grave injustice was done and offers a national apology for the wartime acts of exclusion, removal and detention; 4) the granting of presidential pardons to individuals who were convicted of violating the wartime statutes imposing a curfew on American citizens on the basis of their ethnicity and requiring ethnic Japanese to leave designated areas of the West Coast to report to assembly centers; and 5) the liberal review by executive branch agencies of applications submitted by Japanese Americans for the restitution of positions, status, or

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

STATE OF HAWAII

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

Resolution No. 84-120

entitlements lost in whole or in part because of acts or events between December 1941 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also recommended a number of remedial actions to help Alaskan Aleuts rebuild and restore their home islands and recover to some extent, the losses they suffered as a result of the World War II evacuation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Spark M. Matsunaga, U. S. Senator, introduced S.2116 in the 98th Congress, First Session, to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; and

WHEREAS, S.2116 represents another major accomplishment of the efforts and perseverance of many concerned individuals and organizations, most notably, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), a nonprofit, educational, human and civil rights organization; and

WHEREAS, the JACL, through a volunteer network of 114 local chapters across the nation, was instrumental in initiating the national campaign for Japanese American redress, and continues to bring to the attention of the American public, the moral and constitutional issues of the World War II evacuation and internment experience; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui that it hereby commends the efforts of the Japanese American Citizens League and joins with it in supporting S.2116 which provides redress and reparations for Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and Alaskan Aleuts who were subjected to forced evacuation and interned in detention camps during World War II; and

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

STATE OF HAWAII

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to President Ronald Reagan; the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; the Chairperson of the U. S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee; the President of the U. S. Senate; members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; Mr. Floyd Shimomura, President, Japanese American Citizens League; and Mr. Larry Kumabe, President, Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Goro Hokama *E. Lee Liu* *Ricardo Medina*
Howard S. Kihune *Wayne K. Nishiki* *Charles S. Ota*
Abraham Aiona *Velma M. Santos*
Linda Lingle *Goro Hokama*

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui State of Hawaii, on the 17th day of August, 1984 by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Abraham AIONA	Howard S. KIHUNE Vice-Chairman	Linda LINGLE	E. Lee LIU	Ricardo MEDINA	Wayne K. NISHIKI	Charles S. OTA	Velma M. SANTOS	Goro HOKAMA Chairman
ROLL CALL	Excused	Aye	Aye	Excused	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

James S. Phipps
COUNTY CLERK